

housed the Fitzsimons Army Hospital has been redeveloped into a \$4.3 billion "square mile of life science projects" and is the focus for the biotechnology industry in the Rocky Mountain Region. The Colorado Bioscience Park located in Aurora, Colorado is the first university-affiliated "biopark" to be developed west of the Mississippi. It is adjacent to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and Hospital Complex, the Children's Hospital, and the Fitzsimons Commons town center, all of which make up the new development at the former Fitzsimons Army Hospital.

5. Lowry Redevelopment—the former 1866 acre Lowry Air Force Base has been converted to 4500 residential properties, 4 college campuses, a town center with shopping and commercial space, and 800 acres of open/recreational space. Lowry has been so successful that it received the Governor's Award for Smart Growth and is a model community for urban-infill projects across the country.

Throughout his career, Max has been the recipient of many honors and awards, including two bronze medals, a U.S. Forest Service award, the prestigious 4Cs award from the Bureau of Land Management, a Department of Defense Award for work on Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and several special SES service awards. In 2004 Max received the coveted Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive. The Presidential Rank Award recognized, among several other things, his leadership in setting up the first "one stop" funding process for Clean Water Act programs which was subsequently adopted by the Agency; reinvigorating and streamlining the Regional National Priorities Listing efforts which resulted in the addition of 12 new sites located in Region 8 to the National Priorities List; and evaluating the impacts of wastewater point and non-point sources of contamination on a watershed basis instead of the traditional discharge by discharge basis. Through Max's leadership, the EPA changed several of its approaches for addressing environmental problems and managing different aspects of the Clean Water and Superfund programs.

Max has contributed 40 years of service to the people of this nation and especially the communities encompassed within EPA's Region 8 area. His "can do" approach and personal style of working with people make him a role model for public servants in all aspects of government. I want to personally thank him for his work on the clean up of Rocky Flats and mine waste issues—especially "Good Samaritan" concepts—two issues that are especially important to my Congressional District. He has laid the foundation for all of us to continue his great work for the benefit of the environment, our quality of life and effective public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Max for his contributions and wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES HIGGINS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Higgins, in honor of his work and accomplishments for the Lincoln Park Board of Education.

Mr. Higgins has lived in Lincoln Park since the age of 5, and throughout his life he has been committed to making it a better place to live. Charles was first elected to the Board of Education in 1967 and he made it his goal to improve subjects that, from his time in high school in Lincoln Park, he felt were lacking. Such areas included vocational education and the math curriculum. Mr. Higgins' dedication to parent-teacher associations while on the Board granted him the Distinguished Service Award for his efforts with the students. His time on the Board earned him the recognition of the longest-serving board member in the district of Lincoln Park and in the state of Michigan, and the honorable position of Board President.

Mr. Higgins served as a liaison to the Michigan Association of School Boards, the City Council of Lincoln Park, to the City Recreation Commission. He has been deservedly honored with tributes such as the Book of Golden Deeds Award from the Lincoln Park Exchange Club and Award Merit and Award of Distinction from the Michigan Association of School Boards. He also served with dedication as one of 28 board members from the state as a Michigan Ambassador for Public Education.

Before his time on the Board, Mr. Higgins worked for General Motors and was a deacon at the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church. He is deeply involved in his community, and some of his current commitments include the Lincoln Park Athletic Club, Little League Baseball, Girl Scouts, and the Lincoln Park Democratic Club. He is also active with the senior community, delivering baked goods to the Lincoln Park Senior Center Towers.

I wish Mr. Higgins, his wife Marilyn, and their three children many good years filled with family, friends, and good health. The Southeast Michigan Community deeply appreciates his fantastic devotion and loyal service. I ask that all of my colleagues join me in wishing Charles Higgins a happy and relaxing retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRANDON BYERS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airman First Class Brandon Byers for his courage and dedication to his comrades and his country by serving in Iraq.

On November 6th, 2006, Brandon returned home from serving at Camp Bucca, Iraq, as a Combat Convoy .50 Cal Gunner for ASO Missions and Commonly Remote Operated Weapons System (CROWS). He was greeted at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada by his unit, the 99th Security Forces Squadron with his wife and 5-year-old daughter by his side and his wounds healing.

On October 16th, 2006 Brandon experienced a terrifying ordeal that nearly cost him his life. While on active duty, Brandon's Humvee was hit with a bomb detonated by Iraqi insurgents. The improvised explosive device wounded him and two of his comrades while they were returning to camp in Southern Iraq from a mounted patrol mission. Brandon was manning a .50-caliber machine gun in the

Humvee's turret when the bomb went off. Shrapnel peppered his body and two large pieces struck him—one in the right wrist and another in the upper left thigh.

Following the attack, Brandon was airlifted to a military trauma center in Kuwait to undergo extensive emergency surgery to remove the shrapnel and stabilize his injuries. Colonel Paul Curlett, commander of the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, presented Brandon with a Purple Heart medal before his return to the U.S. to receive additional treatment at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

In addition to his Purple Heart, Brandon has received a number of other awards and decorations, which include the National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air Force Small Arms Expert Ribbon with cluster award.

After his wounds heal and his rehabilitation complete, Brandon will have to go before a medical review board to determine his eligibility to return to duty. Otherwise, he plans to return to his previous post as an Installation Patrolman and Security Response Team Leader for the 99th Security Force Squadron. Brandon feels as if he has let down his "brothers and sisters down range" because he cannot be with them, fighting in the fields.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Airman First Class Brandon Byers for his undaunted demeanor and courageous conduct in defense of democracy. He is a true patriot who serves the United States with valor and courage; I commend him for his service and I wish him luck with all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PACIFIC UNION'S INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY AND CONGRESS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Democratic Pacific Union's (DPU) upcoming international symposium on democracy and congress this December 8 through 10 in Taipei, Taiwan. DPU, a non-governmental organization was founded in 2005 in Taipei to enhance dialogue and exchanges among members of parliaments from countries around the Pacific Rim.

This year's symposium will feature a number of panels on democracy, parliamentary procedures, presidential and congressional elections with participants from Mexico, Canada, the United States, Honduras, Australia, New Zealand, and the Republic of China. I encourage my colleagues to attend this important symposium.

Taiwan has a special relationship with us. Our commitment to Taiwan's security, as stated in the Taiwan Relations Act, has enabled Taiwan to serve as a beacon of democracy in the Pacific region and beyond.

I also offer my congratulations to Taiwan Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together.